MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : The answer has already been furnished. Certain drawings have yet to be supplied by the contractors. The final agreement has not yet been executed; and when the time comes for that, stamp paper will become necessary.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : My question was why the draft agreement was not executed on a stamp paper.

PRESIDENT : According to the answer furnished by the Chief Engineer, no final agreement has yet been come to. Some plans have yet to be supplied to by the contractors to complete the agreement. As soon as they have been furnished, a regular document will be prepared which will be on a stamped paper. That is how I understood the answer.

MR. K. A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Todupuzha* cum *Devicolam*) : May I know why even the draft agreement was not executed on a stamp paper?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*) : Only final agreements are executed on stamp paper.

The Nagercoil distillery.

161.* **MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the strongest proof spirit capable of being out-turned from the Nagercoil distillery ;

(*b*) the percentage of alcohol contained in the above spirit and in the rectified spirit imported from outside ;

(*c*) the comparative prices of each kind of spirit ; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that industries depending on the use of alcohol suffer on account of the inability of the department to supply spirit of requisite strength ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : (*a*) 40 ° O. P.

(*b*) 79·9 by volume, while in rectified spirit it is 90·01 by volume.

(*c*) The price of 40° O. P. spirit manufactured here is Bh. Rs. 2-1-9 per proof gallon. Information is not now available about the price of rectified spirit imported from outside.

(*d*) Government are not aware.

Manufacture of arrack.

162.* **MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state if it is under contemplation of Government to manufacture arrack from the treacle obtained as a by-product in the manufacture of sugar ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The answer is in the affirmative.

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